

# The Insider



## Look inside A Soldier's Life

For more than 200 years, Michigan has been a place where soldiers have lived and served. Visit *A Soldier's Life* in the Michigan Historical Museum's first-floor special exhibit gallery and enjoy these special events.

### April 1

#### Explore Michigan's Civil War Battle Flag Collection

Don't miss this rare opportunity to view these special flags-up close and personal. Flag experts will share the history of the collection and ongoing efforts to preserve these priceless reminders of the Civil War. 11 A.M. to 3 P.M., in the Museum Education Room.

### April 29

#### Veterans' Oral Histories:

##### Stories Behind the Uniforms

Hear contemporary stories from those who have served our nation in times of war. Presented in cooperation with the Michigan Oral History Association. 1 P.M., in the Lake Ontario Room.

### June 3

#### Be a Tourist in Your Own Town

Make the Michigan Historical Museum your first stop in this annual celebration of Lansing's cultural attractions. 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Highlights at the museum include:

- British soldiers in Michigan - the King's Eighth reenactor group
- The soldiers of New France in Michigan
- Focus: HOPE's contributions of new technology to produce parts for vehicles and equipment in Iraq and Afghanistan
- ODIS-T2, a remote-controllable robotic vehicle inspection system used to detect bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan

The Michigan Historical Museum is located inside the Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo St., Lansing. The museum and visitor parking are on the north side of Kalamazoo St., two blocks east of M. L. King Jr. Blvd. Telephone (517) 373-3559 or visit [www.michiganhistory.org](http://www.michiganhistory.org) for more information.

## Discovering connections goes international

For more than two centuries, people from around the world have come to the United States to make a better life for themselves and their families. But not every immigrant finds precisely what he was looking for.

Pier Luigi Boggetto of Torino, Italy, is the descendant of one such immigrant. His great-grandfather Lorenzo Boggetto twice lived and worked in Michigan's Upper Peninsula in the late 19th and early 20th centuries before returning home to Italy for good.

An employee at an Italian gas distribution company, the 51-year-old Boggetto has another life as a historian and illustrator. With the goal of creating a graphic novel about the immigration experience of his great-grandfather, he recently contacted the Michigan Historical Center.



Lorenzo Boggetto

"I'm writing to ask you if it's possible to know...the name of the iron ore mine in which...Lorenzo worked...and something about the working day in the mines and the wage at that time," he wrote in an e-mail message.

Enter Barry James, education curator at the Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee. The museum is part of the Michigan Historical Center's Michigan Historical Museum System.

James took on the international request with interest. "I offer nighttime cemetery tours as part of our Future Historians activities," he says, "and I recalled seeing the Boggetto name on a headstone there. Helping researchers with genealogical requests is just another part of our work."

Using the resources of the Michigan Iron Industry Museum and the local library, James was able to provide Pier Luigi Boggetto with information about Lorenzo and brothers Costanzo and Pietro, who also immigrated to Negaunee.

All three Boggetto brothers were miners, according to James. Lorenzo was a trammer, working underground to move cars filled with iron ore from the mine to the shaft. Costanzo died in a mine mishap in 1902 and Pietro—who stayed and raised a family in Negaunee—worked in Queen Mine. The Negaunee of that era boasted 20 operating mines and 7,000 inhabitants. "Miners earned roughly between \$2.30 and \$2.50 per day, depending on what type of work they performed and other factors," says James.

"I don't know how to thank you," Pier Luigi Boggetto wrote to James. "Another piece of the puzzle of my great-grandfather's life has been set."

## Michigan Historical Center Foundation appoints new director

The Michigan Historical Center Foundation—partners with the Friends of Michigan History in supporting the mission of the Michigan Historical Center—has named Patricia L. Clark of Lansing as its director of development.

"We are pleased and honored to have a person of Pat's high caliber and talents at the helm of the Foundation," says Michigan Historical Center Foundation board chair Deb Muchmore. "Pat's tremendous professional experience and passion for the organization are key to ensuring the Foundation's success in matching those interested in Michigan's rich heritage with the opportunities to support it."

Most recently, Clark was vice president of sales for the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau. In 1989, she served as director of special events for the opening of the Michigan

Library and Historical Center. "It's great to be back here working with this team of professionals," says Clark.

As the Foundation's director of development, Clark will oversee all aspects of development strategies and activities for the nonprofit entity. She's off to a great start. Last year, with Clark as chair of the Odyssey "All-Star Celebrity Gala," the annual Foundation event raised more than \$35,000 in support of Michigan Historical Center education programs.

"The Foundation is playing an increasingly important role in ensuring that the Michigan Historical Center continues to expand its work in the education of children, residents and tourists," notes Michigan Historical Center director Sandra S. Clark (no relation). "I am confident that Pat will take us to new heights!"



Patricia L. Clark

## A special treat for Friends and guests

*Catch the USAF Stellar Brass at the Michigan Historical Museum on April 18.*



**J**oin us for an evening of stellar entertainment in conjunction with the Michigan Historical Museum's special exhibit *A Soldier's Life*.

The Friends of Michigan History are pleased to present a free concert by the United States Air Force Stellar Brass on April 18, 2006, from 5 to 7 P.M. The event includes a special reception and performance by these talented musicians.

By combining a brass quintet with percussion, the Stellar Brass repertoire spans many styles. Musical selections range from Renaissance, American folk songs and dances, Latin styles, orchestral transcriptions and Dixieland. In concert, Stellar Brass magically and instantly transforms over and over—from a marching band to a jazz band, and even to a barbershop quartet. The group's credits include a performance at New York's Carnegie Hall.

Please RSVP to (517) 373-0510 or [museuminfo@michigan.gov](mailto:museuminfo@michigan.gov).

## Nominate an outstanding teacher

The Michigan Historical Center Foundation is accepting nominations for its sixth annual Odyssey Awards. The awards honor teachers who instill a passion for learning in young people and foster their students' interest in Michigan history. All nominations must be postmarked by June 23, 2006.

Each year, the Odyssey Awards recognize up to four teachers from across the state. Award winners each receive a unique plaque, a \$500 cash prize and a reservation for two to the Odyssey gala event on November 18, 2006, at the Michigan Library and Historical Center in Lansing.

All Michigan elementary classroom teachers are eligible. Nominees are judged on their:

- depth of knowledge about Michigan history
- leadership in helping others learn about Michigan history, both in their local school district and in their community
- creativity in teaching Michigan history.

For more information about the Odyssey Awards, telephone the Michigan Historical Center Foundation at (517) 373-2565 or visit the Odyssey home page at [www.michigan.gov/odyssey](http://www.michigan.gov/odyssey).

## Proposed Friends bylaw amendments would create affiliate structure

**S**oon, you could be a "Friend of Fayette" or a Friend at several other Michigan Historical Museum sites across the state. That opportunity has come a step closer to reality through recent action by the Friends of Michigan History Board of Directors.

At the January 9, 2006, meeting of the Friends board, a series of bylaw amendments was approved for presentation to the membership. You can see the amended bylaws on the Friends web site at [www.michigan.gov/friendsofmichiganhistory](http://www.michigan.gov/friendsofmichiganhistory). Final action to adopt the changes will be an agenda item at the regular meeting of the board on March 13, 2006. The meeting, open to all Friends members, will begin at 10 a.m. in the Board Room on the fifth floor of the Michigan Library and Historical Center.

In partnership with the Michigan Historical Museum System, the Friends have been working during the past year to create an affiliate membership structure. The intent of the program is to provide opportunities for affiliate chapter memberships at Michigan Historical Museum System facilities where an existing DNR Parks and Recreation Division friends or natural history organization is not already in place.

Revenue generated by Friends affiliate chapters is to be used to fund projects for which financial support has been requested by the museum site administrator, in consultation with the appropriate DNR officials, where applicable, and in keeping with the bylaws of the Friends of Michigan History.

Under the proposed bylaw amendments, chapters will have a board made up of three to five members, all of whom shall be members of the Friends of Michigan History affiliate. Financial activity will be included as part of the Friends of Michigan History annual report.

Financial management and membership processing will be coordinated by museum staff in cooperation with the Michigan Historical Center Foundation. These arrangements are part of an agreement between the MHC Foundation and the Friends, reached more than two years ago.

A pilot chapter membership program was put in place this past summer at Fayette Historic Townsite in Garden and at Walker Tavern Historic Site near Brooklyn. The Fayette group promoted memberships this past summer during Fayette Heritage Day while interested parties at Walker Tavern have been planning a series of public events at the site for the 2006 season.

During 2005, the Friends of Michigan History provided more than \$14,000 to the Michigan Historical Museum System in support of public programming and educational activities.

"We are grateful for the support that we continue to receive from the Friends of Michigan History," says Phillip C. Kwiatkowski, director of the Michigan Historical Museum System. "In this era of declining governmental support for museum programs in Michigan, private support has become the foundation upon which we are able to preserve the state's heritage and enhance its economic future through cultural tourism."

If you do not have access to the World Wide Web, you may obtain a copy of the bylaws by contacting Jennifer Sochor by telephone at (517) 241-3099 or via e-mail at [sochorj@michigan.gov](mailto:sochorj@michigan.gov).

### Thank You to Our:

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Robert Wright  
Donald E. Zehren

#### Friends Affiliated Members

David Atkinson	Tama Perras
Dan Bahlau	Bob and Carolyn Phelps
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Bryan and Debbie Howay	Rand E. Winters Jr.
Oh These Irish Hills	

## Join Us!

Become a partner with the Michigan Historical Center in protecting, preserving and interpreting Michigan's rich heritage.

### Your membership benefits include:

- A one-year subscription to *Michigan History* magazine
- A 10% discount at the Michigan Historical Museum stores
- Discounts on museum classes and workshops
- Nationwide museum discounts through "Time Travelers"
- *The Insider* quarterly newsletter
- Qualified to join State Employee Credit Union (SECU)
- Special invitations to exhibit openings
- Membership card
- Tax benefits when you itemize your IRS tax return

### For more information:

(517) 373-2565.

[www.michigan.gov/friendsofmichiganhistory](http://www.michigan.gov/friendsofmichiganhistory)

**Yes!** Please reserve the Friends of Michigan History membership indicated below

### ☐ Personal membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### ☐ Gift membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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### Membership level (check one):

☐ \$40 Basic ☐ \$60 Contributing ☐ \$100 Sponsoring ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment method (check one):

☐ Check enclosed, payable to Friends of Michigan History  
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Cardholder's name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit CID # (back of card) \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please detach and mail to:** Friends of Michigan History, P.O. Box 17035, Lansing, MI 48901

TI0504

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*This 2005 photo taken inside the Huron Machine and Tool Company shows a workbench with the tools—still ready to use—hanging above.*

### **Artifact Spotlight:**

## **Huron Machine and Tool Company Collection**

Representative of thousands of small machine shops across the state in the defense industry, Huron Machine and Tool Company in Yale, Michigan, played an important role as a parts supplier during World War II. The firm created large bolts used on the aircraft engines that powered B-24 bombers.

In 2005, St. Clair County drain commissioner Fred Fuller donated portions of the shop's machine tools and associated tooling, bits and parts to Michigan Historical Museum. His father, Fred Fuller Sr., operated Huron Machine and Tool starting in the 1930s as a sideline to his teaching career. During World War II, Fuller Sr. took a leave from teaching and worked at switching the machine shop to full-time war production.

The engine bolts went through many different processes at the machine shop, including cutting to length, threading on ends, drilling and heat-treating. The bolts had to be individually wrapped to prevent corrosion before shipment to Ford Motor Company's Willow Run plant, where they were installed in B-24 engines.

Following the war, Fuller Sr. conducted a mail-order business to manufacture and sell lathe attachments and accessories, advertising in magazines such as Popular Science and Popular Mechanics. He returned to teaching in 1953, and the shop remained something of a time capsule of 1940s manufacturing.

Included in the donation is a vertical band saw made in Three Rivers, drill presses, a lathe, workbenches and a hardness tester, as well as hundreds of accessories for the machines. The Michigan Historical Museum's intention is to create a small manufacturing exhibit in the Arsenal of Democracy gallery using some of the Huron objects.

If you would like to learn more about donating an artifact to the Michigan Historical Museum, contact collections and exhibits curator Eve Weipert at (517) 373-1509 or [weiperte@michigan.gov](mailto:weiperte@michigan.gov).

## Welcome to Our New Friends

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## Archives helps build *A Stronger Kinship*

When Anna-Lisa Cox decided to research the history of a small southwest Michigan town, she found much of her material at the State Archives of Michigan.

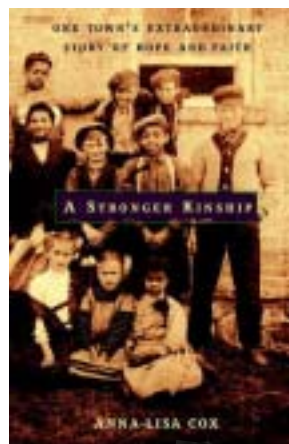
The result of Cox's research, *A Stronger Kinship: One Town's Extraordinary Story of Hope and Faith*, is newly published by Little, Brown. The state archives, along with Schuler Books and Music in Lansing's Eastwood Towne Center, precentled a book signing in recognition and appreciation of its resources playing an important role in the publication of a major book.

*A Stronger Kinship* examines Covert, a rural community perhaps a century ahead of its time. As early as the 1860s, Covert was integrated. Blacks and whites did not just walk the same streets—they intermarried and attended the same churches and schools.

Cox, a historian, writer and lecturer on 19th-century Midwest race relations, credits the state archives as a vital resource. "I...would not have been able to finish my book without [their] aid," she says. "Their web site is great for anyone researching local history, as well as military history connected to Michigan," she adds.

"Much of what we do at the state archives is geared to help people understand history as it relates to their community," says state archivist Mark Harvey. "Maintaining and preserving historic records allows scholars such as Dr. Cox to share the incredible stories of our state with the world."

For more information on the State Archives of Michigan and its services and collections, telephone (517) 373-1408 or visit [www.michiganhistory.org](http://www.michiganhistory.org).



Anna-Lisa Cox

## We love e-mailing our Friends

In an effort to maintain a close connection with our patrons in the most cost-effective manner possible, the Michigan Historical Museum is making every effort to communicate via e-mail.

If you would like to receive Michigan Historical Museum communications via e-mail, let us know.

- Your e-mail address is not revealed to others.
- Your e-mail address will not be sold.

Send an e-mail to [museuminfo@michigan.gov](mailto:museuminfo@michigan.gov), with subject line: E-MAIL ME. Please include your name and postal address, so that we can make sure that we transition you from paper to electronic communication. Be sure to add [museuminfo@michigan.gov](mailto:museuminfo@michigan.gov) to your address book to receive our e-mail without interruption.

## History makes the summer sizzle at the Michigan Historical Museum

This summer, Michigan history is the hot topic, as the Michigan Historical Museum presents its sixth annual Summer Sizzles day camp.

The five-day camp, designed for children aged 9 through 12, offers a variety of programming. New this year are three-day sessions covering special advanced topics for 13 to 17 year olds.

Summer Sizzles takes kids into Michigan's fascinating past by engaging them in crafts, discussions, activities and tours of the galleries of the Michigan Historical Museum.

Campers have an enjoyable summer experience while obtaining a unique perspective on the past. They see real artifacts, enjoy stories of real people and discover their own connection to history—all while having lots of fun!

Topics presented this year at the five-day camp include: the history of etiquette, early autos, the history of magic in Michigan, surveying, and money and banking in Michigan.

Summer Sizzles day camp offers parents options to match their busy schedules with the weeklong sessions as follows:

### Summer Sizzles sessions:

- June 19 to 23 (1 to 4 p.m.)
- July 10 to 14 (9 a.m. to noon)
- July 24 to 28 (1 to 4 p.m.)
- August 7 to 11 (9 a.m. to noon)

The new sessions for 13 through 17 year olds feature such topics as the history of the State Capitol—the building, the people who built it and the people who have worked in it; and a session on the history of Michigan's battle flags—how they were constructed, who served under them and how they are being preserved for the future. These and other two-day and three-day sessions are being finalized.

For more information or to register a child, please telephone (517) 373-1905. Or visit the Michigan Historical Center home page at [www.michiganhistory.org](http://www.michiganhistory.org).



### Day camp tuition:

- Five-day sessions: \$55
- Three-day sessions: \$33
- Two-day sessions: \$22

Members of the Friends of Michigan History receive a 10% discount on all Summer Sizzles day camp programs.

**Friends of Michigan History**  
**P.O. Box 17035**  
**Lansing, MI 48901**

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## Winter Fun at Hartwick Pines Logging Museum

**T**hink "snow," grab your favorite gear and head to Grayling for these fun, late-winter events that will help you discover Michigan's old-growth forest and its logging past.

For more information, telephone (989) 348-2537 or visit [www.michiganhistory.org](http://www.michiganhistory.org).

*February 25*

### **Cross-Country Ski by Lantern Light**

See the old-growth forest in the magical light of more than 75 lanterns along a 1.5-mile groomed cross-country ski trail. Then warm up-or cool down-at the visitor center. 6 to 9 P.M.

*March 4*

### **Enjoy a Snowshoe Hike**

A guided tour starts at the visitor center, goes on a one-mile hike through the forest and then ends with a hot beverage at the logging museum, 1 to 3 P.M.



*Snowshoers pause in the forest to listen to their guides, site historian Rob Burg and park interpreter Craig Kasmer.*

## Accepting Nominations for Swainson Awards

**T**he Michigan Historical Commission is accepting nominations for the 2006 Governor John B. Swainson Award. The award is given to public employees who, although their jobs are not history-related, have made a significant contribution to the preservation of Michigan history. The award is presented at a public ceremony in May.

Nomination forms are due by March 8, 2006. For more information, please telephone Dr. John R. Halsey at (517) 373-6358. Information and a 2006 Swainson Awards nomination form are also available online at the Michigan Historical Center's home page: [www.michiganhistory.org](http://www.michiganhistory.org).

Next Friends meeting: Monday, March 13, 2006